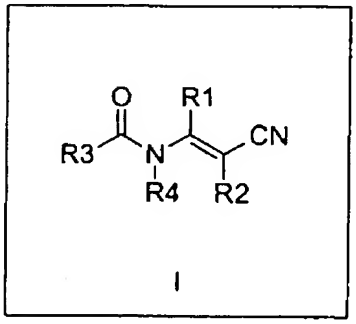
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 7 as shown below. A complete listing of the claims that are, or were, in the instant application are presented according to revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously amended) A compound of Formula I



I

wherein:

R1

is a branched chain C3 to C8 alkyl, C3 to C8 cycloalkyl, C4 to C8 alkyl-substituted alkyl, bicycloalkyl, 1-adamantyl, polyhaloalkyl, trialkylsilyl, or substituted phenyl;

R2 and R3

are each independently of the other unsubstituted or substituted aromatic rings, chosen from phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl,

thiophenyl, pyrazinyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, naphthyl, fluorenonyl, xanthenyl, 4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-(1,8)naphthyridinyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, benzo-1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, quinolinyl, or isoquinolinyl, where a substituent on the rings is one or more chosen independently from hydrogen, C1 to C4 alkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, dihydroxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, dialkylaminocarbonyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkylphenyl, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted phenoxy, nitro, cyano, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl, aminoalkyl, carboxyalkyl, or sulfonylalkyl;

and

R4

is hydrogen, alkylthio, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxyalkyl, acyloxyalkyl, alkyl, acyl, trialkylsilyl, and or the salts, stereoisomers, or tautomers thereof.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein R1 is *tert*-butyl.

3. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of~~ the substituants on R2 and R3 are joined to form cyclic structures on adjacent atoms of said aromatic ring ~~further is substituted with a substituent forming a cyclic structure on adjacent atoms of the aromatic ring~~.

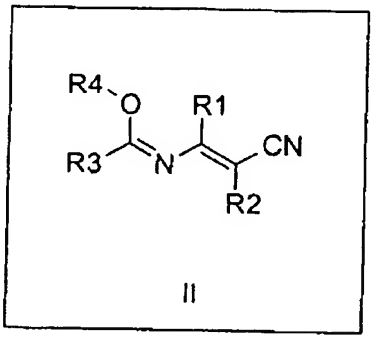
4. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 3, wherein the ~~substituent~~ cyclic structure formed is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-methylenedioxy and 1,2-difluoromethylenedioxy.

5. (Previously amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein R2 is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, 3,5-dimethylphenyl, 2,4-dimethylphenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 4-methylphenyl, and 2-methylphenyl.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein R3 is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, 3-pyridyl, 3-methoxy-2-methylphenyl, 3-ethoxy-2-methylphenyl, 3-methoxy-2-ethylphenyl, 4-ethylphenyl, 2,6-difluorophenyl, 2,3-dimethylphenyl, 3-chloro-2-methylphenyl, and 3-bromo-2-methylphenyl.

7. (Previously amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein halo is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, and iodo.

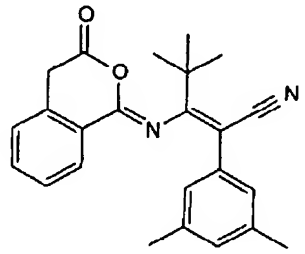
8. (Original) The compound of claim I, wherein Formula I is in its tautomeric form as Formula II:

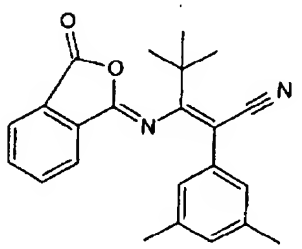


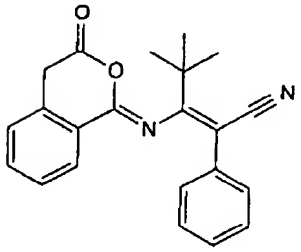
II

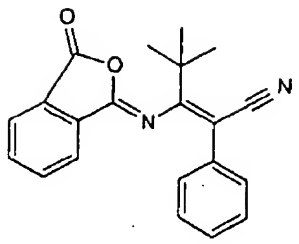
9. (Currently amended) The tautomeric compound of claim 8, wherein said tautomeric compund is ~~R3 and R4 and O together form a cyclic structure resulting in~~ a lactone.

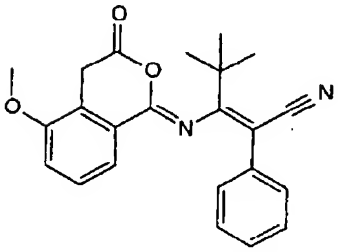
10. (Original) The compound of claim 9, wherein the lactone is selected from the group consisting of:



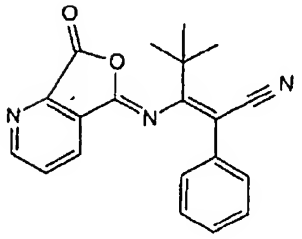




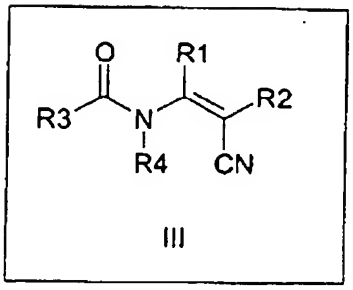




and



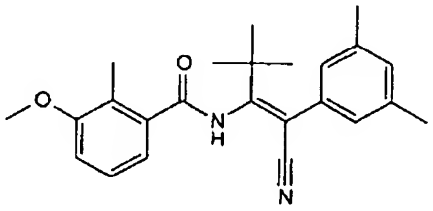
11. (Original) The compound of claim I, wherein Formula I is in its isomeric form as Formula III:



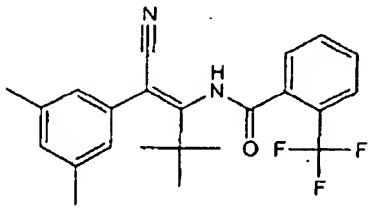
III

12. (Original) The isomeric compound of claim 11, wherein R1 is *tert*-butyl, R2 is 3,5-dimethylphenyl, and R3 is 2-trifluoromethylphenyl or 2-methyl-3-methoxyphenyl.

13. (Original) The isomeric compound of claim 12, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:



and



14. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of: